

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1917

Submarine Postoffice

How Count Bernstorff and I Arranged Means of Communicating With U-Boat Commanders

By COUNTESS HILDA VON SCHAUMBERG

(The Beautiful German Woman Who Was for Many Years in the Kaiser's Secret Service)

On visiting Count Bernstorff at his hotel I found him in heavy gloom. He told me that a friendly neutral ambassador stationed at Stockholm had just informed him that things were going very badly for the fatherland in the United States. He said many of our agents in America whom we had trusted for accurate and quick information of military value had declared that they would no longer serve us. And that was not all. Many of our intelligence department, men and women, in America had either been interned or had fallen under the suspicion of the American Secret Service Department. So he was terribly worked up over the gloomy prospect of affairs from Germany's standpoint. I, Count Bernstorff, was worried about what he had pictured things in America in a favorable light, and now that things were going wrong, he was in danger of losing prestige in the eyes of the Foreign Office. The Count had many enemies in the fatherland, especially in the Foreign Office. His ambition to become the Chief of our Foreign Office was too well-known throughout Germany. After the lightest evidence of his failure in American affairs would be used by his enemies against his promotion. I sincerely believe that the Count was more worried over this prospect than over his disadvantages that would accrue from his blunders in the American capital.

Our Foreign Office demands results and with all his energy, experience, boldness and elegance, Count Bernstorff had failed at the very important post with which he was entrusted. His enemies in the Foreign Office would probably tell him that even a third rate diplomat should have done much better. In dealings with these foolish Americans who had had practically no experience in diplomacy.

"Our fellow-countrymen in America are behaving in a shameful manner," he said contemptuously. "Look at this. Gracious Countess, these men are men of German blood," he said to me handing me a clipping from a Dutch newspaper. This clipping which was about three columns long bore the names of nearly 800 men of German blood in America who were listed by the Dutch editor as having conspired against Germany and aided with the unfortunates. It was a list of names, I was sure, that would be a disgrace to the proud name of the fatherland. These men should be shot as these. Naturally, some blame would be attached to the count. "It is true, Excellency, our men of German blood in America have acted in a treasonous manner to the fatherland, but that cannot be remedied now," I said just a little bit impatiently. "I have some very important news for you, and I need your immediate approval and collaboration in the matter," I said. Then I explained Herr Ricker's scheme of a submarine post-office.

The Count listened intently and when I had finished he jumped from his seat, kissed my cheek and said, "It is a great scheme, Countess, but a very dangerous one. You shall have five times 20,000 marks for its execution if you will take the risk."

Now that I was certain of an unlimited fund for the furtherance of our scheme I at once telephoned to Herr Ricker to have his young inventor at his residence within an hour.

Ricker's young inventor was willing to take 2,000 marks for his plan of a submarine post-office. When built these buoys would look like ordinary buoys of ordinary size and appearance, but they would differ from other buoys in that they would have a little door in the side, with a key-hole very skillfully concealed beneath a slit.

It was an admirable piece of workmanship, and creditable to our German ingenuity and Kultur. To every U-boat cruising in Scandinavian waters a duplicate key to this door would be given, as was the information of the exact bearings of the spot where this buoy was moored at sea off Stockholm.

All the mechanism had already been conceived by Herr Ricker's young inventor, and once made arrangements to have four of these buoys built by a patriotic German motor-boat builder at Stockholm; and the sole requisite not yet planned for was some means of conveying my list of sailings to my submarine post-office and depositing them there.

It took me only two weeks to get my plan in working order, and by the third week as many of our U-boat commanders as could be reached were using my little submarine post-office boxes off Stockholm.

In order to get the thing going I had to resort to my charms again. That part of our scheme that had required only physical labor was comparatively ready, but how was I to find a way to make regular trips to our post-office?

I found in Sweden, as everywhere else since the war, a social upheaval was in progress. The middle-class elements, enriched beyond all belief from the profits made in war commodities, were seeking social advancement and spending money with lavish disregard of its true value in their struggle for social recognition.

Among the possessions recently acquired by this newly-rich couple was a motor-boat, very large and fast, which was at that time the chief pride and pleasure of Captain Wohlund's life. Both he and his wife loved the sea, and cruising was to them a pleasure beyond anything, except, in the case of the woman social advancement.

Under Herr Ricker's patronage a special reception was given in my honor, and the guests included, among others, Count Bernstorff and many of the aristocracy and no less than ten of our German consuls who had just returned from America.

Captain Wohlund had just purchased two small steamers and was holding them on speculation. So by visiting the old Captain and his ambitious wife to this reception we had more than one purpose to serve.

Of course no one except just three of us—Count Bernstorff, Herr Ricker and I—knew the purpose of this reception. The occasion was a dinner. The gentlemen looked gallant and the ladies in their beautiful gowns were good to see. I, also, dressed myself most carefully. Count Bernstorff told me himself on his arrival, "The Gracious Countess has never looked better." I must admit that I did look my best and for a time I was the centre of attraction. At first many of our guests appeared puzzled why we had invited this uninitiated Swedish couple to our midst.

But the word was at once passed that Captain Wohlund and his wife should be treated with extraordinary consideration. It is not necessary to speak twice to the alert and energetic servants of our Foreign Office. In a few minutes the Swedish couple were receiving such honors and attention from everyone that they must have been overwhelmed.

Then I was introduced to the couple. I was as gracious to them as though they were one of the honored members of our own royal family. I sat between them for nearly an hour and talked to them of how I myself enjoyed sea life and how I would die if I could not go on the ocean every so often. And I was not telling an untruth. I had made so many sea trips for the fatherland that I would be very unhappy should I some day find myself unable to travel again by water.

During the reception I conveyed to them the idea that I would be glad to be honored by an invitation to pay them a visit. It was evident, delighted them. Without waiting for the setting of a time when I might call on them I visited Captain Wohlund's house on the following day. We were in a great hurry to get our plans under way and I was not going to consider formalities. Anyway, a woman of my high station need not consider such trivial formalities as to wait for dates to be set to invitations. The old Captain would not know the difference anyway; he would take it as a great condescension on my part.

I was, of course, received and treated with the best these newly-rich people could offer me. I again referred to the keenest love for the sea, and the deepest interest in the mechanism and capabilities of the new toy this curious couple had just acquired. They would talk of nothing else but motor-boats, and were not in the least interested in anything else. As for me, nothing would satisfy me until the captain himself had taught me how to run the boat and how to manage the engine. Of course, it is true, I could have secured as many good Germans in our employ as I wished to make trips to our buoys but the waters approaching the harbor of Stockholm were strictly guarded and no motor-boat other than that of a trusted Swedish subject would be permitted to make regular sailings out to sea. So naturally, captain and his motor-boat were our unmistakable objectives.

I soon became expert in running the boat and greedily seized every opportunity of practicing the management of it.

Within one week after my meeting the old Swedish captain and his wife I was on my way to the post-office.

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Through Herr Ricker, Count Bernstorff, and several other men and women of our Embassy at Stockholm I took the opportunity of ingratiating myself with one such family, who had made a huge fortune by the buying and selling of ships. The man was a rough appearing, middle-aged sea captain, and his wife was a vain, pretentious woman, not without her share of good looks of a certain kind. Her social ambition was enormous. Despite the fact that a few years before her only home was the cabin of her husband's ship, and that she had led a roving life with him at sea.

I had become as one of the family. Every day, regularly, we went to sea, and during each trip I would stand on the deck, my hands on the wheel as though I was one of the members of the captain's family.

During these frequent voyages out to sea, we would meet many little naval patrol boats that constantly sailed up and down the coast. Finally, at the end of about ten days, I was well known to these young Swedish seamen as an intimate friend of the Wohlund couple, and they all knew the captain.

At last it was time for Herr Ricker to act. As it had been arranged, one day Herr Ricker brought a message to Captain Wohlund that it was the wish of Count Bernstorff that he should meet him at his hotel as he, the count, had a very important proposal to make to him. Herr Ricker skillfully conveyed the idea to the captain, and Count Bernstorff's purpose in asking for the interview was to make arrangements for the sale of his two small ships to our country.

Of course, this interview was asked just at the time when the old captain, his wife, and I were about to start on our usual trip out to sea.

Dressed for the occasion when I appeared as usual at the wharf I found Captain Wohlund and his wife in a great state of excitement. "What am I to do, Countess?" His Excellency, Count Bernstorff, wished to see me at once at his hotel, what shall we do?

"You cannot refuse to meet the Count, you must go at once to his hotel," I said excitedly.

I would not listen to his entreaties to postpone our cruise for a few hours. No, I would take the boat, and proud of her sex, his wife insisted that I could manage the boat as well as the captain. Listen we would not to postponing our trip.

At the last moment Herr Ricker and his charmingly beautiful daughter appeared on the spot and insisted that they should accompany us on our trip. The ambitious wife of the captain was certainly overjoyed to have such company.

I shall never forget the joy of the day when my desire was fulfilled to personally visit our submarine post-office.

Once out of the harbor it was perfectly proper that Herr Ricker's daughter should be overcome by seasickness. She had to be taken to the small, very small, cabin, and who else would be with her but the captain's wife. Herr Ricker took skillful care of that phase of the affair. He saw to it that Frau Wohlund did duty in the cabin, and meanwhile

I met three patrol boats whose officers saluted me gallantly and shouted "bravos" as I sailed directly to where our buoy was located.

Two days later it was arranged that Captain Wohlund should transfer his ownership of the boat to me yet himself retaining the license. I explained to him that unless the nominal ownership remained with him I could not cruise freely out of the harbor, and how I loved to go away out to sea!

From that time on I visited regularly our submarine post-office with the messages to our brave U-boat commanders who knew how to secretly come out of the water and obtain the list of ships and how each one was to be treated.

Nobody interfered with me, since the sight of this motor-boat dashing out of the sound with myself at the wheel, had become a familiar one in Stockholm harbor.

Twice a day I would go to sea; once with my message and another time with either the proud old captain and his wife as my guest to still convey the idea that the boat really belonged to them and that I was only a friend.

Straight out to sea I would head my motor-boat, running at top speed so that a great cloud of white foam would hit the boat and me as I made for my post-office. And how happy I felt in the sure expectation of being received once more at the Foreign Office in the manner to which I was accustomed in former days, before my fall in Mexico.

Once when I reached my post-office I sighted a bobbing periscope. Quickly I deposited my precious information, and as quickly put about for port again. The marvelous speed of the motor-boat prevented anybody who might have noted my coming and going from realizing how far out to sea I had been. My post-office service for U-boats was splendidly initiated.

From that time forward I was able to manage a service of news at least once a day. The results were sufficient to justify the elaborate means I had adopted. Herr Ricker even told me that immediate steps would be taken to introduce this submarine post-office system to other Scandinavian countries, and he even dreamed of its further introduction in South American countries as many of the South American neutrals were supplying our enemies with food and other materials. Friendly ships henceforward ran the gauntlet of our U-boats safely, while those laden with enemy commodities met the destruction they so richly deserved.

Count Bernstorff shared with me the commendation of a grateful government; and I felt that I had regained all the ground in the Service which I had lost in that unfortunate affair in Mexico.

INCREASED CAR LOADING
ON NEW HAVEN ROAD.

For the six months ending June, 1917, the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Co. showed a marked improvement in the average revenue tons per loaded car mile as compared with previous corresponding periods. The average car loading for the first six months of this year was 18.23 tons. This compares with 16.61 tons in the corresponding period last year, and 15.55 tons in 1916.

There has been a steady improvement in car loading reported by the New Haven for the past three years. During the 12 months of 1915 the average car loading amounted to 15.75 tons. In 1916, this was increased to 17.11 tons, or 1.36 tons more put into each car. In the first six months of 1917 the average car loading of 18.23 tons is an increase over the corresponding period of 1916 of 1.62 tons, and over 1915 by 2.68 tons.

The New Haven is continually striving to show still further improvement in the loading of its freight cars. The company is obtaining the active support and assistance of the shippers and consignees, to whom is due much of the credit for the improvement already recorded.

Some idea of what can still be accomplished may be had from the fact that if the average car loading could be further increased by only one ton—2,000 pounds—it would mean a saving of 121,998 cars a year, or 10,166 cars a month.

With the government making unprecedented demands on the railroads in order to facilitate the prosecution of the war, the New Haven is redoubling its efforts to attain this increased loading. The company is continuing to impress upon the shipping public that it is its patriotic duty to load cars to their full cubic or weight capacity in order that freight may be handled more expeditiously and efficiently, and thereby help to make the railroads more efficient servants of the government.

CORTEZ C. ROCKWELL, plumbing and heating, jobbing a specialty, 8051 Main and Hillside avenues. Phone 326-2. B 10 *12

CHINA'S PART
IN WAR TO BE
LABOR SUPPLYCan Also Furnish Unlimited
Quantities of Cloth and
Leather

Peking, Sept. 28.—China's first and most important contribution to the cause of the Entente Allies in the war doubtless will be laborers.

Before China joined the war against Germany and Austria, she had already supplied more than 100,000 laborers to France, England and Russia. Coolies for agricultural work and dock work have been going to western Europe for nearly two years. Russia has also been drawing from China's inexhaustible supply of labor for Siberian mines and Siberian farms.

Now that China is actually in the war, the task of recruiting laborers for work beyond the seas will be far easier. The government will lend a willing hand and competition will be hitherto existed between the various powers in recruiting coolies probably will be eliminated.

Of the 400,000,000 persons in China, it is estimated that at least 40,000,000 are men capable of carrying arms or doing some sort of labor directly connected with the war. Of this number 30,000,000 are living within reasonable distance of transportation facilities, and could be mobilized were it necessary. China has such an abundance of men that millions could be spared to the advantage of those remaining at home.

Premier Tuan-Chi-Jui is enthusiastic about sending an army to Europe. He believes 1,000,000 soldiers could be trained and sent to Europe within six months, were the Allies to supply equipment and officers for general supervision.

Figures concerning the actual number of men under arms in China are imperfect and misleading. Each of the provinces has its own army. In addition the central government has 500,000 men in all under arms in China at the present time. Perhaps half of these, or 250,000 would measure up to the standards of a modern army and be an effective fighting force, if properly equipped and trained for a few months under foreign supervision.

Chinese officials, high and low, would welcome an opportunity to send a large army abroad. But China lacks transport for sending troops abroad, and her small arsenals are poorly organized leather and cloth industries make it impossible for her to outfit even a small army.

China has the wool, the cotton and the hides necessary to clothe a great army, but she lacks facilities to convert these into shoes and clothing. Raw material and labor exist in China in abundance, but there is no effective industrial organization.

Should it become necessary China's unlimited labor could furnish much of the clothing for all the allied armies, were modern factories erected in China under foreign supervision.

COLORED MEN WANTED
FOR ARMY STEVEDORES

Especially qualified colored men are wanted in the Stevedore Regiments Quartermaster Corps, national army. Any person desiring information regarding enlistment kindly present himself or write to the U. S. Army Recruiting station, 58 Chapel street, New Haven. Married men can also volunteer their services if they will agree to sign a declaration stating that they will support their families while in service. Any person who has received his notice to appear before the draft board cannot enlist.

Skin Without Wrinkles
Now Easy to Have

There's no excuse for any woman having wrinkles now. It has been found that a simple mixture of exfolite and witch hazel has a remarkable action upon the deepest wrinkles, no matter what their nature, whether caused by worry, habitual frowning, a debilitated condition or the ravages of Father Time. This harmless remedy, which anyone can easily make and use at home, acts both as an astringent and a tonic. The combined effect of tightening the skin and heightening its vitality is to immediately affect every line and wrinkle. Keeping the cuticle smooth and firm as in youth.

The proportions are one ounce exfolite (powdered) to one-half pint witch hazel, ingredients which are found in every drug store. The solution should be used as a wash lotion. It is equally effective in disposing of flabbiness of cheek and neck, as well as sagging below the eyes. Adv.

Bargains That Will Crowd the "Daylight Clothing Corner" Tomorrow

Just another of the practical demonstrations of how far in the lead we are when it comes to showing styles and values. Just another practical demonstration of the FACT that this is a complete clothing department store that can clothe whole families from top to toe.

Just another of the demonstrations of economy and convenience of Cheerful Credit buying—when you can buy all you need without paying any money at the time of purchase. Just another demonstration that \$1 a week payments are the easiest way to pay. Come Saturday for our big specials in every department.

Women's--Coats--Misses'

\$22.50 Values

\$30 Values

All Wool Broadcloth and Velour Coats. New Belted models, leading fall shades. \$14.95

All Wool Velour Coats. Newest models—Kilt, Coney Fur Bottom and collar—colors, Taupe, Beetroot, Pekin Blue, and Navy. \$22.50

Serge--Dresses--Satin

All-wool serges in plaited models with belt, large collar and pockets, trimmed with taffeta; colors, black, navy, green and brown. \$10.95

Satin dresses in the new Eton effects, embroidered waists, white, Georgette collar, fancy skirt; colors, black, navy, taupe and green. \$14.95



Women's--Suits--Misses'

\$20 Values

\$25 Values

Newest fall suits in all-wool materials, shirred back with belt, new colors including black and navy. \$14.95

All-wool men's wear serges, belted models with plaited backs, braid and button trimmed, large collar, navy and black. \$17.95

\$35 Values

New belted models, large fancy collars, skirts fancy shirred, belts and pockets; materials include all-wool lustrous broadcloths, serges, poplins and jersey cloth. New colors including reindeer, pekin, blue, beet root, moiré, taupe, etc. \$26.95

Other New Fall Suits priced up to \$65.00.

EVEN CROSS, SICK
CHILDREN LOVE
SYRUP OF FIGS

If feverish, bilious, constipated, give fruit laxative at once.

Don't scold your fretful, peevish child. See if tongue is coated; this is a sure sign his little stomach, liver and bowels are clogged with sour waste.

When listless, pale, feverish, full of cold, breath, throat sore, doesn't eat, sleep or act naturally, has stomach-ache, indigestion, diarrhoea, give a teaspoonful of "California Syrup of Figs" and in a few hours all the foul food passes out of the bowels and you have a well and playful child again. Children love this harmless "fruit laxative," and mothers can rest easy after giving it, because it never fails to make their little "insides" clean and sweet.

Keep it handy, Mother! A little given today saves a sick child tomorrow, but get the genuine. Ask your druggist for a 50 cent bottle of "California Syrup of Figs," which has directions for babies, children of all ages and for grown-ups plainly on the bottle. Remember there are counterfeits sold here, so surely look and see that yours is made by the "California Fig Syrup Company." Hand back with contempt any other fig syrup.

Smart Styles in Our Millinery Department

Novel shapes, mostly of velvet, with just a little smart trimming which is "the" thing this season.

\$1.98-\$12.98

Specials From Our Women's Department

All-Wool Serge Skirts. New models with pockets, navy and blue. \$3.50 values. **\$1.98**

New Taffeta and Crepe de Chine Waists. Large roll collars, popular shades. \$3.50 values. **\$1.98**

All-Wool Sweaters. Sailor collars and pockets, all new colors. \$5 values. **\$3.95**

All-Silk Petticoats. New changeable colors. \$3.50 values. **\$1.98**

Silk Hosiery. Black, white and gray. 50c value. **39c**

FLANNELETTE KIMONAS AND NIGHTGOWNS. SPECIALLY PRICED FOR SATURDAY. COMFORTABLE AND BLANKETS. A large and complete line. Priced at \$1.35 to \$12.98

SHOES

Every new combination of suede or cloth with leather in women's shoes as well as the latest lasts and leathers for men's and children's shoes

Men's Shoes\$2.50 to \$9.00

Women's Shoes\$1.95 to \$9.00

Children's Shoes.....\$1.50 to \$4.50

BOYS' WEAR

Suits

Bring the boys in to see the new mixtures, serges and corduroys in the new Norfolk models. These suits come mostly with two pairs of pants which as parents know means just DOUBLE wear. For Saturday we have values at from \$3.50 to \$10 that we have repriced for an extra special at

\$2.48, \$3.98, \$5.98, \$7.98

Boys' Knee Pants

New Knickerbocker models, regular 75c values that we are selling tomorrow at **49c**

Boys' New Fall Hats and Caps 49c, 98c, \$1.25

Boys' Sweaters

Every boy wants one of these fine closely knit, all-wool sweaters. Blouses, Underwear, etc., at special prices.

Children's Specials

New Coats in a big variety of "fashioning" new models, some with fur collars, a really wonderful assortment, the best in town. Specially priced for Saturday

\$2.98 to \$19.75

Children's New Wash Dresses in pretty plaids with pockets **98c to \$2.98**

Children's New Hats. Felts, velvets and velours, a large selection **59c to \$4.98**

Girls' Sweaters. All-wool belted models in all colors. \$4 values **\$2.98**

Caesar Misch Store

CASH ON CREDIT

Main Golden Hill and Middle Streets

BREAKING RECORDS

In Our Men's Department

All records broken last Saturday. Tomorrow we are determined to set new sales figures and so have priced the finest assortment of ready to wear suits and top coats in America so low that there is not a man who can resist the "good business" of buying here. Suits include all the new autumn colorings and patterns. Top coats are in the new trench effects as well as conservative models.

Suits Values	Top Coats Values
\$15.00 to \$25.00	\$15.00 to \$40.00
\$9.50	\$10.50
\$13.75	\$32.50
\$18.75	

Men's Sweaters

We are doing the men's sweater business of Bridgeport with the largest stock and with the best value giving prices. Come and pick out your sweater tomorrow. Our styles include the famous four-in-one visor models, all-wool, all colors.

\$1.48-\$9.98

Men's New Fall Furnishings

Stocks now complete in underwear, flannel shirts, hosiery, pajamas, dress shirts, neckwear, gloves, etc., all at special prices.

Trousers

A special lot, good strong materials which will give extra long wear. \$2 and \$2.50 values **\$1.35**

